

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Final Office Action mailed January 17, 2003.

Telephone Interview

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on May 9, 2003. In that interview, Applicant and Examiner discussed the status of the claims and the nature of the rejections made. Applicant's attorney reiterated a number of arguments that have been previously argued in prior responses. The Examiner argued the possible existence of prior art relating in the area of cellular telephone technology, although the Examiner agreed that to date none of this cellular telephone prior art has been cited against the present application. As a result of the interview, Applicant agreed to consider amending the claims to distinguish over potential prior art in the area of cellular telephones. In particular, Applicant agreed to consider amending the claims to recite that the wireless access points generate signals to "ping" the wireless mobile units to detect or identify them, as opposed to the detection or identification process being performed by the mobile units.

Applicant has amended each of the independent claims accordingly. Applicant submits that the present claims, as amended, distinguish over cellular telephone systems, to the extent any cellular telephone prior art exists that would be material to the present claims. Thus, Applicant submits that the present claims are allowable.

New Claims

Applicant submits new claims 46-71. Applicant notes that the new claims are directed toward either an airport terminal based communication service system or a hotel based communication service system. Applicant submits that these new claims are allowable over the cited art. Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest a system comprising a plurality of wireless access points located in an airport terminal or a hotel which are designed to communicate with a mobile unit carried by a user, and which provide information to the mobile unit based on identified past transactions of the

user of the mobile unit. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

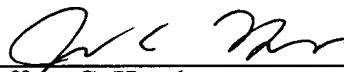
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5285-00106/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☒ Request for Continued Examination
- ☒ Fee Authorization

Respectfully submitted,



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Claims with changes highlighted

1. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network;

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a plurality of distributed wireless access points coupled to said network, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to generate a wireless signal to cause a mobile unit in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response ~~detect said mobile unit~~, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, one or more past transactions of the user of the mobile unit are identified, and said first wireless access point transmits information to said mobile unit that is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

13. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

B2
a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network;

at least one information provider coupled to the network;

a plurality of wireless access points coupled to said network and distributed in a region, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to generate a wireless signal to cause a mobile unit in proximity to the wireless access point to generate

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a response ~~detect said mobile unit~~, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit is transmitted to the at least one information provider;

wherein the at least one information provider identifies past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, where the at least one information provider provides information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein the at least one information provider provides said information dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

23. (Amended) A method of using wireless network access points (APs) to service mobile users who are in a vicinity of the APs, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) a wireless access point scanning its coverage area to cause a portable computing device in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response, wherein said scanning comprises detecting the presence of a portable computing device in the vicinity of one of said APs, wherein the portable computing device is carried by a user, wherein said scanning and said detecting is are performed in a wireless manner;

B3

(b) providing identification information indicating the user of the portable computing device to said one of said APs in response to said detecting, wherein said providing is performed in a wireless manner;

(c) an information provider accessing past transaction information indicative of the past transactions of the user associated with said identification information;

(d) the information provider transmitting information to the portable computing device through said one of said APs, wherein a content of the information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the portable computing device, wherein said one of said APs provides the information to the portable computing device in a wireless fashion.

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36. (Amended) A method of providing advertising to users of mobile units, the method comprising:

a wireless access point scanning its coverage area to cause a portable computing device in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response;

the wireless access point detecting the presence of a mobile unit in the vicinity of a the wireless access point, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

determining past transactions of a user of the mobile unit;

the wireless access point transmitting advertising information to the mobile unit in response to said detecting, wherein the advertising information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein at least a portion of said transmitting is performed by the wireless access point in a wireless fashion.

38. (Amended) A method of providing advertising to users of mobile units, the method comprising:

B5

a wireless access point scanning its coverage area to cause a mobile unit in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response;

detecting the presence of a mobile unit in the vicinity of a the wireless access point, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

providing past transactions of a user of the mobile unit to a provider in response to said detecting;

the provider transmitting advertising information to the mobile unit, wherein the advertising information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein at least a portion of said transmitting is performed by the wireless access point in a wireless fashion.

39. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

a network;

one or more service providers coupled to the network; and

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a plurality of wireless access points coupled to said network and distributed in a region, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to scan its coverage area to cause a portable computing device within the coverage area to generate a response ~~detect said mobile unit in a wireless fashion~~, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point in proximity to said mobile unit, information is transmitted to a first service provider, said information including identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit;

wherein said first service provider is operable to perform a service in response to said information, wherein said service is performed based on the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

41. (Previously Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 39, wherein the service provider is a hotel, wherein, in response to said information, said hotel is operable to begin processing a room reservation to have a room ready for the user of the mobile unit.

42. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

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a plurality of wireless access points operable to be coupled to a network and distributed in a region, wherein each of the plurality of wireless access points is configured to scan its coverage area to cause a mobile unit within its coverage area to generate a response detect a mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein each of the plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of the plurality of access points in proximity to the mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the first wireless access point transmits information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein the information is dependent upon past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.